

  
Chairman Phil Mendelson

A PROPOSED RESOLUTION

IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

To formally reprimand Councilmember Jack Evans for violations of the Council of the District of Columbia Code of Official Conduct.

RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this resolution may be cited as the "Council Reprimand of Councilmember Jack Evans Resolution of 2019".

Sec. 2. (a) Inherent in the position of member of the Council of the District of Columbia is the responsibility to act, at all times, with the highest standards of ethical conduct. A Councilmember must act in the public interest. A Councilmember must perform the duties of the office to which he or she is elected in a manner that maintains the confidence of the public and must take no action that violates or threatens the public trust. These governing principles are embodied in the Council of the District of Columbia Code of Official Conduct and are fundamental to holding elected office.

(b) Section VI.(a) of the Council of District of Columbia Code of Official Conduct, Council Period 23, effective January 2, 2019 (Res. 23-1; 66 DCR 272) ("Code of Official Conduct"), provides, in part, that:

GENERALLY, Employees shall not:

(1) Use Council time or government resources for purposes other than official business or other government-approved or sponsored activities . . . .

(2) Order, direct, or request an employee to perform during regular working hours any personal services not related to official Council functions and activities . . . .

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37 (c) Section VI.(c)(1) of the Code of Official Conduct provides that “An employee may  
38 not knowingly use the prestige of office or public position for that employee’s private gain or  
39 that of another.”

40 Sec. 3. On several occasions, including in 2015 and 2018, Councilmember Jack Evans  
41 directed a Council employee to use government resources to email business proposals seeking  
42 employment. The business proposals outlined how Councilmember Evans could use his tenure,  
43 accomplishments, and stature as Councilmember and Chairman of the Committee on Finance  
44 and Revenue, and as the Council’s appointee to the Board of the Washington Metropolitan Area  
45 Transit Authority, to generate business for the law firms.

46 Sec. 4. Councilmember Jack Evans’ actions constitute a violation of section VI of the  
47 Code of Official Conduct, in that he directed a Council employee to use government time and  
48 resources for purposes other than official Council business, and, further, he knowingly used the  
49 prestige of his office and public position seeking private gain.

50 Sec. 5. This reprimand does not concern other allegations that have been reported in the  
51 public press as those allegations are under investigation by both the Board of Ethics and  
52 Government Accountability and the United States Attorney’s Office and that may or may not  
53 lead to other sanctions.

54 Sec. 6. To maintain the public trust in the integrity of the legislative branch of  
55 government, the Council expresses disapproval of the conduct of Councilmember Jack Evans as  
56 detailed in this resolution, and hereby reprimands Councilmember Jack Evans for conduct in  
57 violation of section VI of the Code of Official Conduct.

58 Sec. 7. The Council of the District of Columbia shall transmit a copy of this resolution,  
59 upon its adoption, to Councilmember Jack Evans.

60 Sec. 8. This resolution shall take effect immediately.